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America's power grid powers up with record-breaking renewables

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a historic shift that marks a turning point for the American energy landscape, the U.S. power grid is officially entering its "Greenest Year Ever." New data released today by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) confirms that 2026 will be the year renewable energy moves from the periphery to the podium, with solar, wind, and battery storage accounting for a staggering 99% of all new electricity generating capacity.

For a nation that has long balanced the scales between traditional fuels and emerging technologies, the 2026 forecast represents more than just a statistical win it's a testament to American innovation and a shared commitment to a sustainable future.

An aerial view of wind turbines at the Altamont Pass wind farm on January 13, 2026 in Livermore, California.

The solar surge

Leading the charge is solar energy, which continues its meteoric rise. Across the Sun Belt and beyond, massive utility-scale solar farms are sprouting up, turning vast stretches of land into "harvesting fields" for the sun's rays.

"We aren't just seeing growth; we are seeing an evolution," says Dr. Elena Vance, a senior analyst at the Clean Energy Institute. "The efficiency of photovoltaic cells has reached a point where solar isn't just the 'right' choice for the planet it's the most logical choice for the pocketbook. It is now the cheapest form of new electricity in the history of the United States."

From the deserts of Arizona to the rolling hills of North Carolina, solar panels are being deployed at a pace never seen before. In 2025, renewables already made up 88% of new capacity. The jump to 99% in 2026 signifies that the infrastructure and investment are finally in total alignment.

Wind: The invisible workhorse

While solar captures the headlines with its gleaming panels, wind energy remains the steady, invisible workhorse of the American heartland. Coastal states are also joining the fray, with offshore wind projects finally reaching completion. These "sea-based giants" are tapping into the consistent, powerful breezes of the Atlantic and Pacific, providing a stable flow of power to dense coastal cities.

In states like Iowa and South-Dakota, where wind turbines have long been part of the skyline, the economic benefits are tangible. Farmers who lease their land for turbines are seeing a "new kind of crop" one that isn't dependent on rain or soil quality, but on the very air itself. This "wind-fall" of income is revitalizing rural communities, funding new school wings, and paving roads.

The battery revolution: Solving the "after dark" problem

Perhaps the most inspiring part of the 2026 data is the role of battery storage. For years, critics of renewable energy pointed to the "intermittency problem" the simple fact that the sun sets and the wind occasionally stops blowing.

Enter the "Battery Boom." Of the new capacity planned for this year, massive battery storage systems represent a critical piece of the puzzle. These systems act like a giant "save button" for the grid, soaking up excess energy during peak production hours and releasing it precisely when it's needed most.

"Batteries are the glue holding our new grid together," explains Sarah Jenkins, an engineer at a leading storage facility in Texas. "We've solved the reliability question. We can now bottle the sunshine and use it at midnight."

A community-driven future

What makes this transition truly special isn't just the technology it's the people. Small towns across the country are seeing a surge in "green-collar" jobs. From technicians who climb 300-foot turbines to software developers managing smart-grid AI, a new generation of American workers is finding purpose in building the future.

Furthermore, the environmental benefits are already being felt. ❑

Weight-loss medication linked to lower risk of drug addiction: study

Paris, France

Taking a new generation of weight-loss medication is linked to a significantly lower risk of addiction and death from drugs such as cocaine and alcohol, a large U.S. study suggested on Thursday.

The massively popular drugs known as GLP-1 agonists could even halve people's risk of dying from a range of harmful substances, according to the research published in the BMJ journal on Thursday.

However outside experts urged caution in interpreting the results, which do not establish a causal link, calling for clinical trials to find out more.

As GLP-1 drugs such as Ozempic have transformed the treatment of diabetes and obesity in recent years, they have also shown signs of helping with a surprising variety of health problems including addiction.

A pharmacy owner shows an Ozempic antidiabetic medicine at a pharmacy in Pristina on March 27, 2025.

The US team of researchers analysed the medical records of more than 600,000 people with type 2 diabetes in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' healthcare database who took either GLP-1s or an older kind of diabetes drug.

The researchers then looked at the effect of drugs including alcohol, cannabis, cocaine, nicotine and opioids over three years.

For veterans who already had a drug addiction, taking GLP-1s had a 50-percent lower rate of death and a 40-percent lower rate of overdose.

The rate of emergency department visits was more than 30 percent lower, while hospital admissions and suicidal thoughts or attempts were down by a quarter.

Among veterans with no history of drug addiction, taking GLP-1s was linked with a 14-percent lower risk of developing one.

- 'Quite a surprise' -

Ziyad Al-Aly, an epidemiologist at Washington University in St. Louis and the study's senior author, told AFP it was "quite a surprise" how many substance-use disorders the GLP-1s appeared to prevent.❑

How a 73-Year-Old "NICU Grandpa" whispers hope to Richmond's tiniest fighters

In the quiet, sterile corridors of the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, the rhythmic beep of heart monitors and the soft hum of ventilators form the soundtrack of survival. This is the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a place where the world's smallest warriors fight for their first breaths. Amidst the high-tech machinery and the hurried footsteps of specialized medical staff, there is a man whose primary equipment is a rocking chair and a pair of steady, gentle hands.

At 73 years old, Dave Whitlow has discovered a retirement calling that is as profound as it is simple. Known affectionately as a "volunteer cuddler," Whitlow has dedicated the last eight years of his life to providing the one thing medicine cannot manufacture: the restorative power of human touch.

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, Whitlow arrives at the hospital, leaves his smartphone in his locker, and undergoes a rigorous scrubbing and gowning process. For the next several hours, he is not a retired local government manager or a grandfather; he is a lifeline for infants who are often too fragile to go home but too lonely to thrive in silence.

The science behind Whitlow's work is compelling. Medical professionals have long recognized that for premature infants or those born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), "skin-to-skin" contact and consistent rocking are not just comforts they are clinical necessities. Physical touch helps regulate an infant's heart rate, stabilizes their body temperature, and lowers cortisol levels. In many cases, babies who are held regularly by volunteer cuddlers see shorter hospital stays and improved neurodevelopment outcomes.

"These little ones are under so much stress," Whitlow explains with a soft smile. "They are poked and propped and monitored all day long. Sometimes, they just need to know that there is a person there who isn't going to stick them with a needle, someone who is just there to hold them and tell them they are loved."

The need for volunteers like Whitlow arises from a heartbreaking reality of modern healthcare. While nurses are highly skilled, they are often stretched thin by medical emergencies and administrative duties. Furthermore, many parents of NICU babies face agonizing hurdles. Some must return to work immediately to keep their health insurance; others live hours away or are caring for other children at home. When a parent cannot be at the bedside, the "NICU Grandpa" steps in.

Whitlow's approach is one of total presence. While he rocks a baby, his eyes never leave the monitors. He has become so attuned to the infants that he can often sense a dip in oxygen levels or a spike in heart rate before the alarms even sound, allowing him to alert the nursing staff instantly. He is an extra set of eyes and a steady heartbeat in a room that can often feel overwhelmed by technology.❑

Alabama's $17.5M green miracle: Restoring the great pine forests for future generations

In the heart of the American South, a quiet but monumental transformation is taking root. Alabama, a state renowned for its sprawling river systems and emerald forests, has officially committed $17.5 million toward a landmark wildlife restoration project. This initiative is not merely about planting trees; it is a profound effort to heal a landscape and ensure that the state's natural legacy remains vibrant for generations to come.

The centerpiece of this ambitious plan is the restoration of the iconic longleaf pine ecosystem. Centuries ago, these majestic, towering pines blanketed nearly 90 million acres across the Southeast. Today, due to over-harvesting and urban expansion, less than five percent of that original forest remains. Alabama's new funding aims to reverse this trend by reclaiming thousands of acres of lost habitat, turning the tide for one of the most biodiverse environments in North America.

"This is a generational investment," says state conservation official Sarah Jenkins. "We aren't just looking at the next four years; we are looking at the next hundred. We are rebuilding an entire world from the soil up."

The project's impact reaches far beyond the timber. The longleaf pine forest is a sanctuary for some of the region's most vulnerable residents. Among them is the gopher tortoise, often called the "landlord of the forest." These tortoises dig deep, elaborate burrows that provide vital shelter for more than 350 other species, including the rare Eastern indigo snake and various small mammals. By protecting the tortoise, the state is effectively providing a home for an entire community of wildlife.

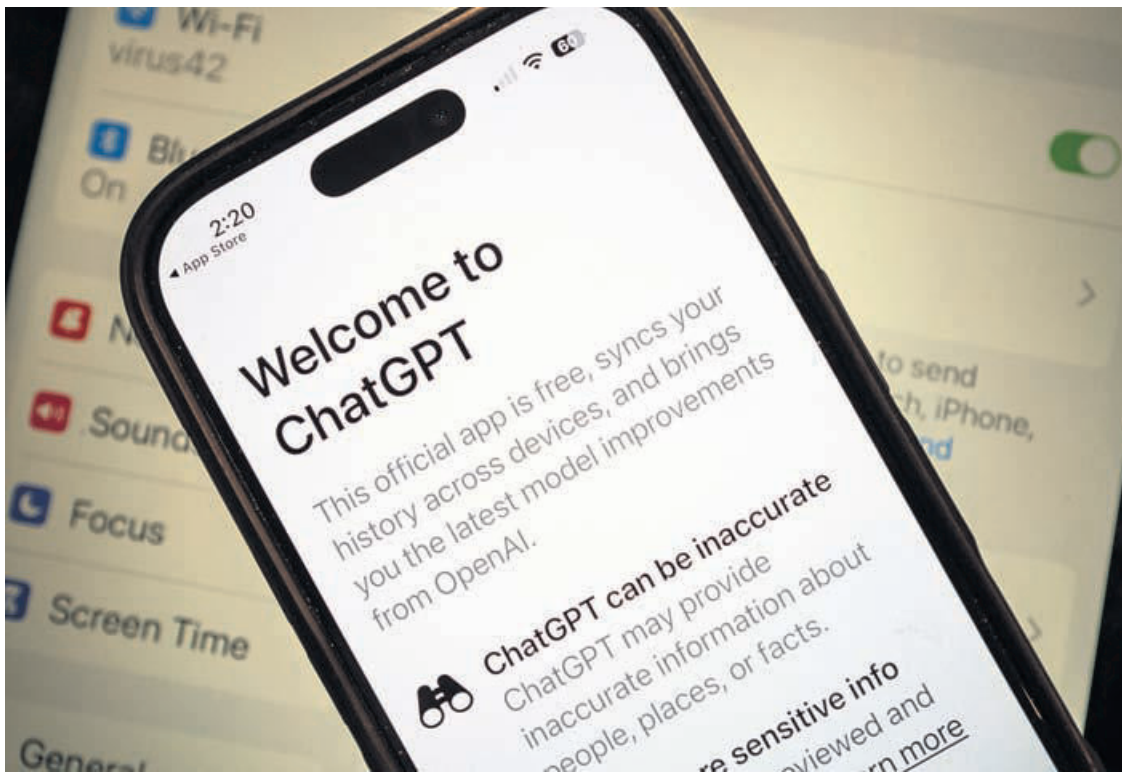
Furthermore, the initiative is a lifeline for the red-cockaded woodpecker. Unlike other birds, these specialized woodpeckers only peck their nesting cavities into living pine trees, a process that can take years. The restoration of old-growth stands ensures that these rare birds have the specific environment they need to thrive and sing once more in the Alabama wilderness.

The $17.5 million will also support the revitalization of Alabama's wetlands and river basins. These areas act as the state's natural kidneys, filtering water and providing a buffer against flooding. By restoring the natural flow of these waterways, the project guarantees cleaner water for local communities and more resilient shorelines in the face of changing weather patterns.

For the people of Alabama, the benefits are both environmental and emotional.❑

Can ChatGPT be charged in a murder? Florida wants to find out

New York, United States
Before he opened fire on the Florida State University campus last year, killing two people and wounding six others, Phoenix Ikner had a conversation.
Not with a friend, a parent or anyone who might have talked him out of it -- but with an AI chatbot.
According to evidence gathered by Florida's attorney general, the student had asked ChatGPT which weapon and ammunition would be best suited for his attack, and when and where he could inflict the most casualties.
The chatbot, investigators say, answered his questions.
Now Attorney General James Uthmeier wants to know whether that makes OpenAI a criminal.
"If the thing on the other side of the screen was a person, we would charge it with homicide," he said, announcing a criminal investigation into ChatGPT maker OpenAI and leaving open the possibility of charges against the company or its employees.
The case surrounding the April, 2025 shooting has thrust a provocative question into the legal spotlight: Can the creators of an artificial intelligence be held criminally liable for the role their AI played in a crime or even a suicide?
Legal experts say it's a realistic, if deeply complicated, proposition.



The ChatGPT app by OpenAI is shown on a cell phone on March 03, 2026 in Chicago, Illinois.

-- Criminal product? --
Criminal prosecutions of corporations are possible under US law, though they remain relatively uncommon.
Late last month, Purdue Pharma was hit with more than $5 billion in criminal fines and penalties for its role in fueling the opioid crisis.
Volkswagen was previously found guilty in the emissions cheating scandal, Pfizer over its promotion of the anti-inflammatory drug Bextra and Exxon for the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska.
But those cases all involved human decisions executives, salespeople or engineers who made choices and cut corners.
The Ikner case is different, and that difference is precisely what makes it so legally treacherous.
"Ultimately, it was a product that encouraged this crime, that did the act of the crime," said Matthew Tokson, a law professor at the University of Utah. "That's what makes this case so unique and so tricky."

Legal experts consulted by AFP say the two most plausible charges would be negligence or recklessness the latter involving a deliberate choice to ignore known risks or safety obligations.

Such charges are often treated as misdemeanors rather than felonies, meaning lighter sentences if convicted.
The bar, however, is high.
"Because this is such a frontier issue, a more compelling, more clear-cut case would probably involve internal documents recognizing these risks and maybe not taking them seriously enough," Tokson said.
"In theory, you could get liability without it," he said. "But in practice, I think that'd be difficult."

In criminal law, "the burden of proof is higher," noted Brandon Garrett, a law professor at Duke University -- with prosecutors required to establish guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.
OpenAI, for its part, insists ChatGPT bears no responsibility for the attack.
"We work continuously to strengthen our safeguards to detect harmful intent, limit misuse, and respond appropriately when safety risks arise," the company said.

-- Civil or criminal? --
For those seeking accountability, a civil lawsuit may offer a more viable path.
Such an approach might push companies to design their products more carefully or at least force them to reckon with the human cost of getting it wrong, said Tokson.
Several civil cases have already been filed against AI platforms in the U.S. many involving suicides though none has yet resulted in a judgment against the companies.
In December, the family of Suzanne Adams sued OpenAI in California court, alleging that ChatGPT contributed to the murder of the Connecticut retiree by her own son.❑

New York Times' 'Wordle' game to be turned into TV show

New York, United States
The New York Times' hit game "Wordle" is set to become a television show, the American newspaper announced on Monday.

This photo illustration shows a person playing online word game "Wordle" on a mobile phone in Arlington, Virginia, on May 9, 2022.

"Wordle" gives players six chances to guess a random five-letter word, using green, yellow and gray tiles to help them solve the puzzle.
The game show version, which will air on NBC next year, will see teams of players go head-to-head to win cash prizes.
It will be hosted by NBC news anchor Savannah Guthrie, who has recently been through a very public family tragedy, following the abduction of her elderly mother at the end of January.
"Wordle" was launched by software engineer Josh Wardle in 2021 and quickly grew in popularity.

It was acquired by the Times in January 2022 and is now played daily by millions of people worldwide.
"Wordle is so beloved by so many that we thought it was an interesting, creative opportunity to think about how it might work in in a game show," said Caitlin Roper, executive editorial director of film and TV at the Times.
The Times' CEO Meredith Kopit Levien added that the move "reflects our broader approach of creating experiences people return to and share every day."
The game show will be co-produced by the Times, NBC host Jimmy Fallon's company Electric Hot Dog, and Universal Television Alternative Studio.
The newspaper has previously co-produced television shows including "The Weekly" and "Modern Love."
Games with similar rules have previously featured on television shows, including "Lingo," which first aired in the United States in 1987.❑

Groundbreaking: 'Controlled' quakes triggered under Swiss Alps

Bedretto, Switzerland
Researchers have made the ground shake in southern Switzerland, triggering thousands of tiny earthquakes in a monitored setting, as they seek to discover seismicity insights that could reduce risks.
"It was a success!" said Domenico Giardini, one of the lead researchers on the project, as he inspected a crack in the rock wall lining a narrow tunnel far below the Swiss Alps.
Wearing a fluorescent orange jumpsuit and helmet, the geology professor at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) switched on his headlight to get a better look.
"We had seismicity," he said excitedly, explaining that the goal was "to understand what happens at depth when the Earth moves".
Giardini was standing in the BedrettoLab carved out in the middle of a narrow 5.2-kilometre (3.2-mile) ventilation tunnel leading to the Furka railway tunnel.
Reached by specially adapted electric vehicles that slide through the dank darkness along concrete slabs laid over a muddy dirt floor, the deep underground laboratory is the ideal location to create and study earthquakes, Giardini said.
"It is perfect, because we have a kilometre and a half of mountain on top of us... and we can look very close at the faults, how they move, when they move, and we can make them move ourselves," he told AFP.

ETH Zurich Master students Alba Zappone, Alessandro Profeta and ETH Zurich doctoral student Lu Tian examine the cracks in the BedrettoLab tunnel, a unique underground research facility operated by the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH Zurich) located 1500m beneath the Swiss Alps within a 5.2 km tunnel near Bedretto, on April 29, 2026.

- 'Earthquake machine' -
Typically, researchers seeking to study earthquakes place sensors near known faults and wait.
In the BedrettoLab, by contrast, researchers filled a pre-selected fault with sensors and other instruments, and then sought to trigger movement.
For the experiment, dubbed Fault Activation and Earthquake Rupture (FEAR-2), dozens of scientists from across Europe spent four days in late April injecting 750 cubic metres of water into boreholes drilled into the tunnel's rock walls, aiming to provoke a magnitude-1 earthquake.
"We don't create a new fault... We only facilitate that it moves," Giardini said.
During the experiment, no people were in the tunnel for safety reasons, with everything managed remotely from the ETH Zurich lab in northern Switzerland.
When AFP visited the Zurich lab a day into the experiment, scientists were excitedly discussing the first signs of seismicity on the monitors.
"This is kind of pushing the frontier of science," said Ryan Schultz, a seismologist specialised in man-made earthquakes.
The excitement was interrupted by a sudden power cut in the tunnel that sent the scientists in Zurich scrambling for answers.
"We have our earthquake machine... Now we have to play with the parameters," said Frederic Massin, a French seismologist and technical expert, as he studied his screen for clues to what had caused the outage.
The glitch was short-lived and pumping soon resumed.

- 8,000 earthquakes -
In the end, some 8,000 small seismic events were induced along the targeted fault, but also, surprisingly, along other faults running perpendicular to the main one, sparking local magnitudes ranging from -5 to -0.14.
"We did not reach the target magnitude that we had set, but we reached just below," Giardini said.❑

Venezuela has 'never considered' becoming 51st U.S. state: acting president

The Hague, Netherlands
Venezuela has "never" contemplated becoming the 51st US state, as suggested by US President Donald Trump following the capture of deposed leader Nicolas Maduro, the country's acting president said on Monday.

"That would never have been considered, because if there is one thing we Venezuelan men and women have, it is that we love our independence process, we love our heroes and heroines of independence," Delcy Rodriguez told reporters as she left a hearing at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.
Since the United States captured Maduro on January 3, Trump has boasted of controlling the oil-rich Caribbean country, and reportedly told Fox News on Monday that he was "seriously" considering making Venezuela the 51st state.
In a post on his Truth Social network in March, the US leader wrote: "Good things are happening to Venezuela lately! I wonder what this magic is all about? STATEHOOD, #51, ANYONE?"

Asked about the prospect of US statehood, Rodriguez insisted her government was working with "a diplomatic cooperation agenda" with the United States.
Since taking over from longtime strongman Maduro, Rodriguez has overseen a thawing of relations with Washington while under heavy pressure to meet Trump's demands for access to the country's vast fossil fuel reserves.
Trump has repeatedly praised Rodriguez, who has passed reforms opening Venezuela's mining and oil sectors to foreign companies, notably from the US.
Rodriguez, who served as Maduro's vice president, has also pushed through an amnesty law that led to the release of hundreds of political prisoners, though some 500 remain behind bars.
The acting leader was in The Hague for a hearing at the United Nations' top court over a centuries-old dispute with Guyana over an oil-rich region, in her first trip outside the Caribbean since assuming power.
In March, Washington and Caracas re-established diplomatic relations broken off by Maduro seven years prior.
The Venezuelan opposition has demanded elections.❑

Venezuela's acting president Delcy Rodriguez gestures during a march calling for the lifting of all US sanctions in Caracas on April 30, 2026.

Nazi-looted portrait found in home of Dutch SS leader's family: art sleuth

The Hague, Netherlands
An artwork plundered by the Nazis from the world-famous Goudstikker collection that surfaced in the family of a notorious SS collaborator in the Netherlands has been handed over, Dutch art detective Arthur Brand told AFP Monday.

"Portrait of a Young Girl", by Dutch artist Toon Kelder, had likely been hanging for decades in the home of descendants of Hendrik Seyffardt, Brand said, describing it as "the most bizarre case of my entire career".

The case has drawn parallels to a find that made global headlines in 2025, when an 18th-century Nazi-looted painting also from the collection of late Jewish art dealer Jacques Goudstikker -- featured in a property ad in Argentina.

In the Dutch case, Brand said he was approached by a man who had recently uncovered two horrifying secrets: he was a descendant of Seyffardt, and his family had displayed the looted art for years.

This family member, who wished to remain anonymous, told Brand he saw the painting hanging in the hallway of the granddaughter of Seyffardt, who was assassinated by Dutch resistance fighters in 1943.

This handout photograph taken in an undisclosed area and released by Arthur Brand on May 11, 2026, shows the painting "Portrait of a Young Girl" by Dutch artist Toon Kelder, an art piece stolen from the world-famous Goudstikker collection by the Nazis, discovered in the house of the descendants of a notorious Dutch SS collaborator.

Seyffardt, one of the highest-ranking Dutch collaborators with the Nazis, commanded a Waffen-SS unit of Dutch volunteers on the Eastern Front.

The New York Times splashed news of his death on its front page in 1943, and a lavish Nazi state funeral was held for him in The Hague, complete with a wreath sent by Adolf Hitler.

According to Brand, Seyffardt's granddaughter told the family member the painting was "Jewish looted art, stolen from Goudstikker. It is unsellable. Don't tell anyone."

But the family member wanted the story to go public, so contacted Brand, who has made a name for himself cracking numerous high-profile cases of stolen art.

This family member told De Telegraaf daily: "I feel ashamed. The painting should be returned to the heirs of Goudstikker."

The granddaughter, quoted by the Dutch daily, said the family was discussing whether the painting should be returned to the Goudstikker heirs, and denied knowing it was looted.

"I received it from my mother. Now that you confront me like this, I understand that Goudstikker's heirs want the painting back. I didn't know that," she was quoted as saying.

Brand later confirmed to AFP that the family had handed the painting over. He said he was in contact with the lawyers of the Goudstikker heirs to arrange a transfer soon.

- 'Truly tops everything' -

Brand's investigation showed the painting had a Goudstikker label on the back and the number 92 carved into the frame.

He searched the archives of an auction in 1940 where part of the looted Goudstikker collection went under the hammer and found item number 92: "Portrait of a Young Girl" by Toon Kelder.

Hermann Goering, a top Nazi official, plundered Goudstikker's entire collection when the art dealer fled to England in 1940.❑

Colombia court orders full disclosure about Epstein, Maxwell visits

Bogotá, Colombia
A Colombian court has ordered immigration authorities to release information about trips to the South American country by the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and his accomplice Ghislaine Maxwell, it emerged Monday.

Former Colombian president Andres Pastrana, who governed from 1998 to 2002, is mentioned several times in files released by the US Justice Department regarding Epstein's crimes.

He was a passenger on Epstein's private plane in 2003 and appears in emails that suggest a close relationship with both Epstein and Maxwell.

Pastrana also appears in a photograph with Maxwell from 2002, both wearing Colombian Air Force uniforms.

In declassified emails she claimed to have flown a Blackhawk military helicopter in Colombia and to have fired from the air at a guerrilla group in the Amazon.

The Institute for Primary Facts, a non-profit organization, opens a library archive of 3.5 million pages of the Epstein files that have been made available to the public at the Donald J. Trump and Jeffrey Epstein Memorial Reading Room in Tribeca on May 8, 2026 in New York City.

The Administrative Court of Cundinamarca department in central Colombia ordered the immigration authority, Migracion Colombia, to make public details about Epstein and Maxwell's visits to the country.

The agency had previously refused journalists' requests for information, citing "national security and personal data protection reasons."

The court however ruled that the information was "of high public interest" and involved an issue that merited "citizen oversight."

Pastrana acknowledges having met with Epstein and Maxwell on several occasions but insists that the meetings were formal in nature.

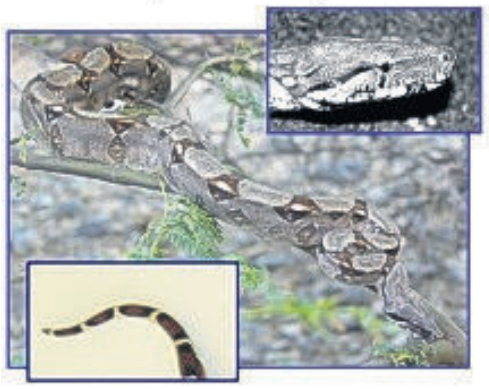
He says that Maxwell, who is serving a 20-year sentence in the United States for her role in Epstein's sex trafficking ring, took a brief flight in Colombia but denies that she carried out attacks from the aircraft.

He insists that he never visited Epstein's infamous private island in the Caribbean, where the magnate allegedly trafficked women and minors, making them available to businessmen and political figures.

Epstein had longstanding ties to the world's political and business elite. In 2008, he pleaded guilty to soliciting prostitution from a minor.❑

Snakes of Aruba

BOA
(Boa constrictor)



CASCABEL
(Crotalus unicolor)

SANTANERO
(Leptodeira bakeri)

Arikok National Park is home to various unique plant and animal species such as Aruba's rare endemic rattlesnake Crotalus unicolor). This rattlesnake is locally known as the 'Cascabel'. But Aruba has two more snake species living on the island: the Santanero and the Boa.

Cascabel (Crotalus unicolor)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it.

Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol.

Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. This snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans. However, the venom can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (Boa constrictor)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly in white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats.❑

Po-Ké Ono Brings Bold Asian Fusion to Aruba's Dining Scene

Innovative eatery blends island culture with modern Asian cuisine

In a culinary landscape known for its diversity and creativity, Po-Ké Ono stands out as a vibrant and contemporary addition to Aruba's restaurant scene. With locations at Azure in Palm Beach and the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad, the concept introduces a refreshing take on Asian fusion dining—casual in style, yet refined in execution.

Established in 2020, Po-Ké Ono was envisioned as a space where flavor, culture, and creativity intersect. The menu features an array of signature dishes including poke bowls, steamed bao, and sushi, crafted with precision and a focus on freshness. Drawing on Asian influences, the restaurant delivers bold flavors in an approachable format, appealing to a broad audience of locals and visitors alike.

The ambiance is designed to be welcoming and relaxed, with a philosophy centered around accessibility and enjoyment. Whether dining indoors or grabbing a quick bowl on the go, guests can expect a consistently high standard in both service and cuisine. With extensive menu options, including selections for vegan diners, Po-Ké Ono caters to a wide range of tastes and dietary preferences.

While the concept leans into fast-casual dining, the quality of ingredients and thoughtful

preparation reflect fine-dining roots. Many of the restaurant's core ingredients are sourced locally, emphasizing sustainability and support for Aruba's agricultural community. The result is a dining experience that honors both the island's spirit and the culinary traditions it draws inspiration from.

Open daily from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Po-Ké Ono continues to gain recognition as one of the island's premier destinations for sushi, poke, and bao. Its growing popularity is a testament to Aruba's evolving food culture—one that embraces global influence while staying rooted in community and craft.

For those seeking a modern taste of Asia in the heart of the Caribbean, Po-Ké Ono offers a flavorful and memorable experience worth exploring.❑

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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
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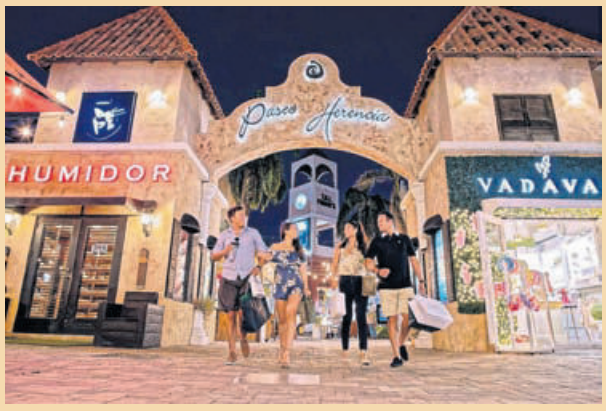
Discover the Best of Paseo Herencia



Shopping

Paseo Herencia invites you to shop at an easy island pace in a charming open air setting, where international style meets local creativity. Browse fashion, fragrances, footwear, jewelry, skincare, and souvenirs all in one relaxed stroll.

Find well-known brands such as Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, and Psycho Bunny, then stop by Pandora to turn Aruba themed charms into keepsakes you can take home. For something truly one of a kind, explore locally handmade gifts and artwork at The Artist Co-op and Olla Gallery, where island inspired pieces and personalized options add a meaningful touch. Lumiere Candles adds to the local charm with Aruba inspired candles, perfect for bringing a little island warmth back home.

For a special accessory, discover permanent jewelry at Gloria Feliciana, crafted locally for everyday wear. For island wellness, Aruba Aloe offers locally made skincare and gifts created with aloe grown right here on the island. Beauty lovers can visit Maggy's for favorite beauty essentials and services for hair, nails, and makeup, perfect for a quick refresh before dinner or a night out.

A World of Flavors

Dining at Paseo Herencia fits every moment of the day, from breakfast to late night bites. Start at Che Bar, serving breakfast from 7:30 AM and continuing throughout the day with comforting favorites, including classic Neapolitan style pizza.

For bold traditional flavors, Xixon Spanish Restaurant is a go to for signature dishes such as paella paired with a wide wine selection. If you are craving something modern, Fusion Cuisine brings a creative twist with its original take on sushi. The Lazy Turtle offers comforting classics and craveable appetizers, while Sexy Shrimp adds a sports bar atmosphere to the mix, pairing standout drinks with a diverse menu that is perfect for gathering with friends and watching any game.

As the evening continues, follow your cravings. Enjoy Mexican favorites at Iguana Cantina, share Dutch specialties at Pomm's Frites, and finish with something sweet at Mythos or Mimo's roll up ice cream. Starbucks is always nearby for a familiar coffee or an easy refresh between stops.

VIP Cinema

Caribbean Cinemas VIP delivers a premium movie experience on the second floor, easily accessible by escalator. Settle into plush reclining seats and enjoy high quality screens, state of the art projection, and immersive sound. A well stocked concessions counter offers classic popcorn, snacks, and drinks including wine, making it ideal for a laid back movie night or a special outing.

Location and Hours

Paseo Herencia is located in Aruba's high rise area, directly across from Holiday Inn. The mall is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM, and on Sundays from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM. For the latest updates and upcoming events, follow our social media pages and visit our website at www.paseoherencia.com.❑

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!

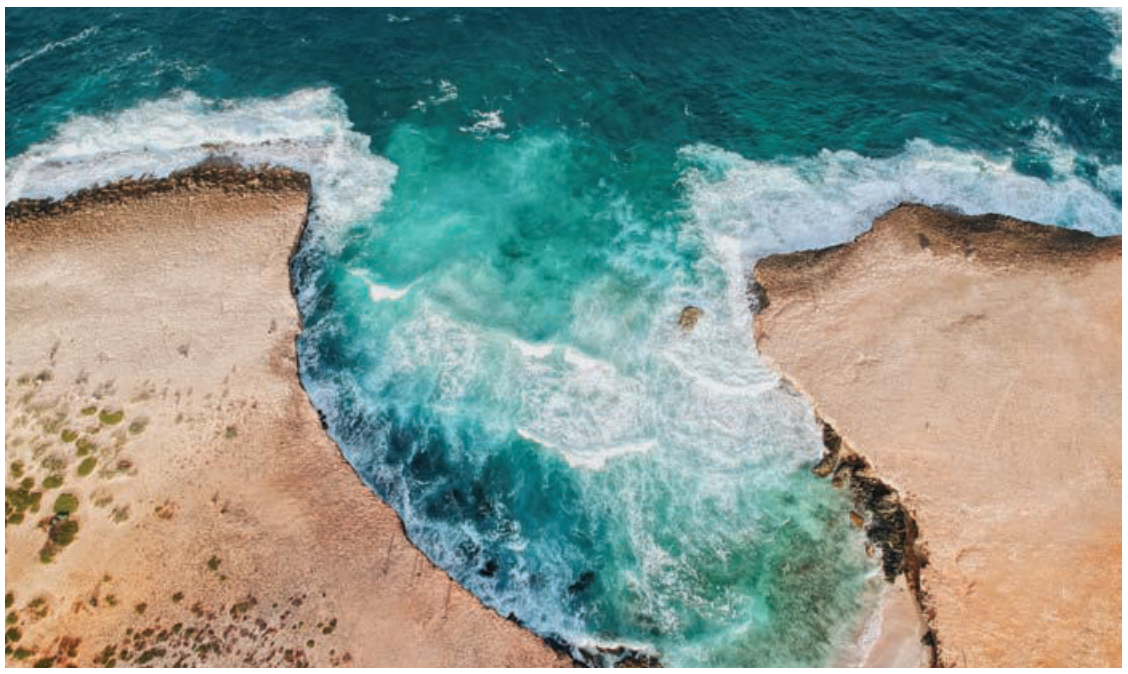
(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge".❑

Aruba: the legend behind its name



(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Coroboori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded they kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.❑

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock.

Fun facts about cacti hedges "Trankera"

(Oranjestad) – When off-roading in inland Aruba, you may notice some cacti hedges around various properties or lined up by certain pathways. These man-made hedges are called "trankera" and play an important role in maintaining our flora and fauna.

The trankera dates to colonialism, where settlers established several 'cunucu' (farm) on the island. People either used stone walls or trankera as a fence to ward off strangers and wild animals that can feed on the cunucu vegetation or cattle. Nowadays, trankeras are less common, and those that still stand are often not maintained. On the surface this seems like a bad development, however this proved to be beneficial for our flora and fauna. Naturally developed flora around the hedges offers more shelter for fauna. Another aspect is the propagation process. When pruning hedges, flowers and seeds were removed, which limits propagation to a minimum.

So, though trankeras don't play that big of a role in Aruba's agriculture anymore, our environment still reaps the benefits of these long-standing natural structures.❑

Know more about the Town Hall Eloy Arends building

The Monuments bureau shares some essential facts about the Town Hall known as the Eloy Arends building. The aim is to educate the community about the mansion's construction, history, and preservation.

The Doctor Eloy Arends building is located at the Wilhelminastraat 8 and was the home of the Arends family. It was the first building that the Monuments bureau, and the Government of Aruba, restored in 1997. Mr. Medardo 'Dada' Picus, was the architect of this Aruban-Caribbean building. The building sits on a 1.545 m² plot of land and is a typical Aruban mansion. It is an open home with false walls that allow the connection of the rooms with each other.

The entrance has large doors and columns supporting the floor of the upper balcony. In between the columns, there are decoration details made out of wood. The elaborately detailed embellishment is known as gingerbread trim and the triangular decorative wall surface over the columns is called the tympanum.

The top of the doors and windows have stained glass.

The building is not built on ground level but at approximately 1.5 meters above ground level. This mansion elevation created storage below the wooden floors and allowed proper ventilation.

The building has lots of windows which allow plenty of light inside, as well as good ventilation.

It has dormer windows and crowns on the outside part of the roof and different decorations on the edges of the walls and facade.

This is a stunning building full of beautiful details that resemble its beauty and transform into a history of love. Aruban tradition for "well-to-do" families dictates that before a man gets married, he has to present his future wife with a newly built and fully furnished house. It was certainly the case with this building.

Due to the engagement between Eloy Arends and Monica Lacle (daughter of Adriaan Lacle, who is mainly known for the boulevard that bears his name), the construction of the mansion began in 1922 and was completed in 1925 when the couple got married.

The Office of the Civil Registry is located in the adjacent building, whereas the mansion hall is used exclusively for civil wedding ceremonies.

The Monuments bureau will continue to contribute and educate the community about the history of our monuments with significant value for Aruba.❑

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our "Dorado"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Dorado", a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamento. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why?

Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.

They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:
Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called "bull Dorado".

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others.❑

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Diver Louganis
5 Strikes, in a way
10 Intensify
12 Deep pink
13 Kagan of the Supreme Court
14 Knowing
15 German article
16 Flock father
18 Garden visitor
19 Persist with
21 Skating spot
22 Newbies
24 Shade
25 Draw
29 Leave speechless
30 Some singers
32 Spell
33 Hamilton's bill
34 Gullet
35 Sports site
37 Make fun of
39 Disgusted
40 Completely full
41 Horn sounds
42 Went fast

DOWN

1 Like Zeus and Ares
2 Charitable aid
3 Less bumpy
4 Sight site
5 Racket
6 Despondent
7 Mideast region
8 Pop, e.g.
9 Like sports cars
11 Sun shade
17 Olympics entrant
20 Praline bit
21 Showed over
23 Short times
25 Sound system
26 Groom's garb
27 Soup choice
28 Correcting aid
29 Elevator's place
31 Garbo, for one
33 Spigots
36 Bolt's partner
38 Put away

C	O	B	R	A	■	S	A	B	L	E
A	X	L	E	S	■	C	U	R	E	S
S	C	A	M	S	■	A	T	O	M	S
S	A	C	■	A	L	L	O	W	M	E
I	R	K	■	Y	A	P	■	N	O	N
S	T	E	M	■	Y	E	M	E	N	■
■	■	Y	E	S	■	R	O	Y	■	■
■	R	E	A	P	S	■	B	E	T	A
R	O	D	■	A	L	E	■	D	E	S
E	M	P	E	R	O	R	■	G	A	S
P	E	E	L	S	■	R	A	I	S	E
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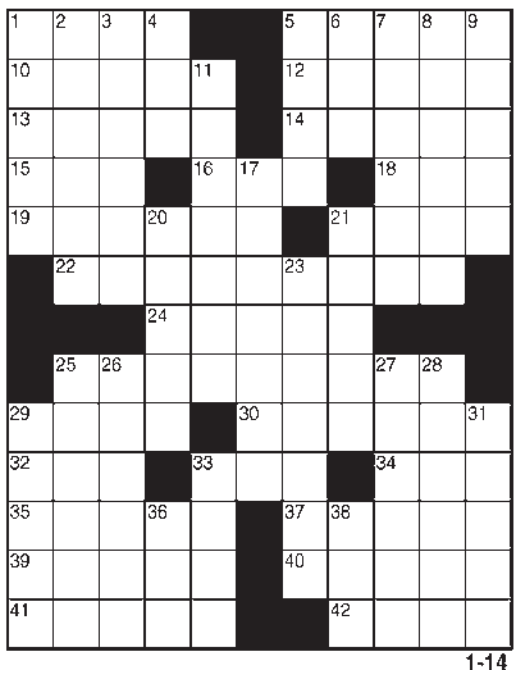


1-14

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-14 CRYPTOQUOTE

X L Q W N C S Q K B O B X O T Q

A U O Q B . X L Q Y J J C S Q K B O B

E J G ' D Q X L Q Z O U J X .

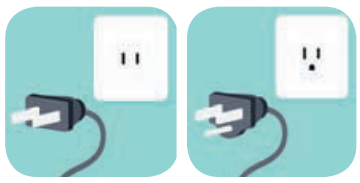
— T O V L N Q U N U X B L G U Q D

Cryptoquote: YOUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES DON'T DETERMINE WHERE YOU CAN GO. THEY MERELY DETERMINE WHERE YOU START. — NIDO QUBEIN

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	6				9	4		7
	2	4			8	9	6	
8	9						2	1
		9	2	8			7	
				6	5	2		
	5	2	7			8	9	6
3	7		1	9				
		6						
	4		6		7	3	1	9

Difficulty: ★★ 5/12

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Answer to previous puzzle

7	8	9	1	6	5	3	2	4
2	4	1	3	9	8	7	5	6
3	5	6	4	7	2	9	8	1
1	3	2	7	8	9	4	6	5
5	7	8	6	4	1	2	3	9
9	6	4	5	2	3	1	7	8
6	1	5	9	3	7	8	4	2
4	2	3	8	1	6	5	9	7
8	9	7	2	5	4	6	1	3

Difficulty: ★ 5/11

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Why hantavirus is not the new Covid, according to experts

This photo taken in Paris on May 11, 2026 shows vials bearing the name of "hantivirus".

Paris, France

A deadly hantavirus outbreak on a cruise ship has revived bitter memories of when Covid-19 first emerged, but health experts have emphasised the two viruses are very different and have sought to assuage fears of another pandemic.

Here is what you need to know.

- New or old? -

After the first cases of Covid in late 2019, it was referred to as the "novel coronavirus" because it was a brand new pathogen.

The virus rapidly engulfed the world, sending countries into punishing lockdowns and crippling the global economy.

The exact number of people killed by Covid is difficult to determine, but the World Health Organization estimates it was at least 20 million.

Unlike Covid, hantavirus is not a new pathogen.

It was first described among soldiers fighting in the Korean War in the early 1950s.

Cases of hantavirus are regularly recorded across the world, particularly in Asia and Europe. It has long been monitored in areas where the virus is endemic.

- Transmission and symptoms -

Humans almost always catch hantavirus by being exposed to the saliva, urine or droppings of wild rodents. The most common way is to inhale dust from droppings.

The Andes hantavirus strain, which caused the recent outbreak on the MV Hondius cruise ship, is the only one out of more than 30 species known to be able to transmit between humans.

But even this is rare, with only a handful of previously documented cases.

After being infected with Andes, it takes between one and six weeks for symptoms to appear. This is vastly shorter than for Covid, which has an incubation period of seven to 10 days.

Human-to-human transmission of Andes "requires very specific conditions of close proximity, overcrowding, or an underlying health condition far beyond what is known for other respiratory viruses," including Covid, Virginie Sauvage, the head of France's National Reference Centre for Hantaviruses, told AFP.

The last major outbreak in 2018 killed at least 11 people in Argentina, where the Andes species is endemic. Two of the three people who died in the latest outbreak travelled to Argentina before boarding the cruise ship.

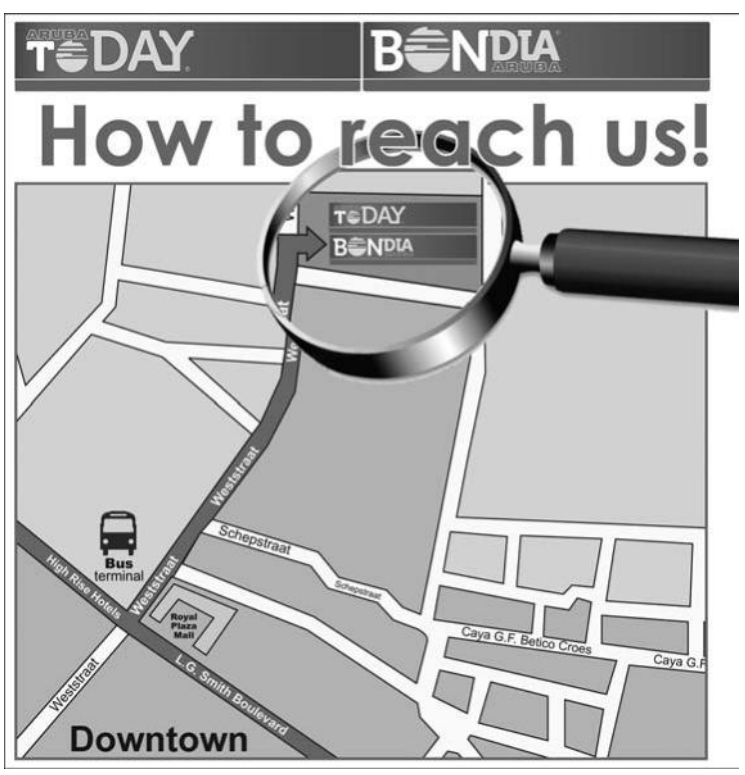
Research into the 2018 outbreak found that the majority of transmission occurred on the first day the infected person showed symptoms.

Hantaviruses in the Americas such as Andes can cause severe respiratory and cardiac distress, as well as haemorrhagic fever.

In comparison, Covid is solely a respiratory illness, and can cause fever, shortness of breath, body aches, fatigue and loss of smell.

- Too lethal for a pandemic? -

The Andes hantavirus may be too rapidly fatal to spark a pandemic, explained biologist Raul Gonzalez Ittig of Argentina's scientific research agency Conicet.❑



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HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad	San Nicolas
Hospital	IMSAN
7:00 pm/10:00pm	24 HOURS
Tel. 527 4000	Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: del Pueblo
Tel. 582 1253

San Nicolas: Aloe
Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic	587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba	587 0002
Urgent Care	586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic	588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Police Oranjestad	527 3140
Police Noord	527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz	527 2900
Police San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulance	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

No longer peripheral: SKorean director makes Cannes history

Cannes, France
Director Park Chan-wook told AFP on Monday that he was hugely moved to make history as the first ever South Korean head of the Cannes Film Festival jury in a further sign of his country's cultural rise.
"I cannot help but feel a sense of emotion, realising that for the first time, a Korean has become the head of the jury" of the world's top film festival. "The moment has finally come."

He said he took it as further proof of South Korea's cultural influence, with Boon Jong Ho becoming the first Korean to win Cannes' top prize, the Palme d'Or in 2019 with "Parasite", which went on to win four Oscars.
Park, the maker of arthouse classics such as "Oldboy", "The Handmaiden" and "Decision to Leave", said there "was a long period when Korean cinema was treated as if it were from some kind of peripheral nation, yet even during that time, Korea had excellent directors and actors.

"Now Korea is playing a role as one of the central hubs of the film world, and I believe this is a movement befitting the times. It makes me think of a lot of the predecessors who were truly outstanding but never had the opportunity to be recognised internationally."

President of the jury South Korean director, screenwriter and producer Park Chan-wook arrives for a dinner with fellow members of the jury at the Grand Hyatt Cannes Hotel Martinez, on the eve of the opening ceremony of the 79th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France, on May 11, 2026.

His own relationship with the Korean government has not always been smooth.
Park was blacklisted for a period with a string of other artists including Boon more than a decade ago.
Since then Park, like Boon, has been embraced by Hollywood, and is about to make a Western called "The Brigands of Rattlecreek" with a galaxy of US stars including Matthew McConaughey and Pedro Pascal.
He told AFP that he loves American Westerns because they are stories about "people building something out of nothing".
"Ever since I was young, watching Western movies, I have thought that I wanted to make something like that some day."

- Works that will endure' -
The Cannes jury that Park heads also includes Hollywood stars Demi Moore and Ruth Negga as well as Chloe Zhao, the Oscar-winning director of "Nomadland".
Park told AFP that hoped that the film that wins the top prize will stand the test of time.
"I believe that awards should be given to works that will endure and be agreed upon by everyone 50 or 100 years from now."
The 62-year-old said he wanted to see the films in the running for the Palme d'Or blind, "with a sense of anticipation and excitement knowing nothing beforehand.
"I always try to view things through the purest and most primal eyes of an audience member," he said.
The movies in the running for the top prize include the latest melodrama from Spain's Pedro Almodovar and as well "Hope" by fellow South Korean director Na Hong-jin, starring real-life partners Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander.
Park insisted that he would not favour his compatriot.
"Some even joked that I might go out of my way to be harsher on a Korean film, because it wouldn't look good if I appeared to be favouring it," he told AFP.
"I intend to judge everything as fairly and objectively as possible."
The Palme d'Or will be announced at the festival's closing ceremony on May 23.❑

Beatles to open first London museum on site of last gig

London, United Kingdom
The Beatles' first official London museum is set to open next year in the Mayfair building where the band recorded its final album and played its last gig, Paul McCartney announced Monday.
The attraction "The Beatles at 3 Savile Row" will feature seven floors of never-seen-before archive material and a recreated basement studio where the Fab Four recorded their 1970 "Let It Be" album.

A visitor looks at a signed frame of The Beatles "Sgt. Pepper Lonely Hearts Club band. Irsay, a larger-than-life billionaire who inherited the NFL's Indianapolis Colts from his father Robert and oversaw the franchise for decades, died in May 2025.

Visitors to the venue on the upmarket central London block -- better known globally for its traditional bespoke tailors will also get access to its rooftop where the band staged an iconic performance in 1969.
"Tourists come to England and they can go to Abbey Road, but they can't go inside... so I thought this was a terrific idea," McCartney told the BBC.
The 83-year-old pop legend said it stemmed from efforts by Apple Corps -- the company which has overseen the band's business interests since 1968 -- to reexamine "what the Beatles mean, and what people want these days from us".
The company previously owned the Savile Row building for eight years from 1968 and it served as the band's headquarters for two years prior to their 1970 break-up and for business purposes afterwards.
"We're thrilled to bring Apple Corps back to its spiritual home and give The Beatles fans something truly special," its CEO Tom Greene said in a statement.

"Every single day, fans are taking pictures of the outside of 3 Savile Row, he added.
"But next year they can go in and explore all seven floors of the iconic building, including the rooftop where even the railings remain the same from that famous day in 1969."
Footage of the famous January 30, 1969, concert the last time anyone saw the Fab Four perform publicly -- was recently restored and included in Peter Jackson's "Get Back" documentary about the band.
Speaking to the BBC, McCartney said visitors will ascend the Savile Row building and see "various things" including memorabilia before they can "pretend to be a Beatle" on the roof.
It will also feature rotating exhibitions and a fan store, according to Apple Corps.
"There are so many special memories within the walls, not to mention the rooftop," McCartney added in the official statement.
Ringo Starr, 85, the only other living Beatle, called the exhibition "like coming home".❑

Focus, longevity: Scheffler-McIlroy rivalry sparks mutual admiration

Newtown Square, United States

Rory McIlroy and Scottie Scheffler, who together have won four of the past five major titles, have impressed each other with their mental focus and golfing skills.

As world number one Scheffler and second-ranked McIlroy prepared to face a world-class field at Aronimink in the 108th PGA Championship starting Thursday, they examined each other's most formidable strengths.

Scheffler captured last year's PGA Championship at Quail Hollow and British Open at Royal Portrush while McIlroy took the green jacket at the Masters last month and last year.

McIlroy finds Scheffler's focus and consistency among his greatest weapons.

"He has played consistently excellent golf for I would say ever since he got his first win back at the start of 2022, and he hasn't really dropped off since then," McIlroy said.

"It has been four years of really excellent, consistent golf. You look at his game, and you would have said a few years ago that the putting was a weakness, but you wouldn't say that now.

Scottie Scheffler of the United States watches his shot from the 15th tee during a practice round prior to the PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club on May 11, 2026 in Newtown, Pennsylvania.

"And you look at all the other aspects of his game and you don't see a weakness, from a physical standpoint, from a mental standpoint."

Scheffler has runner-up finishes in his past three starts but has shaken off weak efforts quickly, McIlroy noted.

"He seems like he has a good mindset of last week's done, I'll move on to this week," McIlroy said. "Forget about whatever happened. He operates in the present so well, and that's one of his super strengths."

McIlroy impresses Scheffler in multiple ways as well.

"When you look at just his game, his ability to drive the ball is the best I've seen, not only with his speed but how accurate he is as well," Scheffler said of McIlroy.

"He's able to take out certain things on some golf courses that not many players can do. He does it in a way where he hits a lot of fairways as well."

Scheffler also admires how long McIlroy, who won his first major at the 2011 US Open, has played at a top level.

"Another thing is his longevity. Hard to have an understanding of what it takes to remain at the top for as long as he has," Scheffler said.

"Rory is one of those guys that checks the box each week. He's a guy I always see in the gym, the practice facility.

"Players will have a greater appreciation when you see somebody like Rory who has had success over so many years. When you look at when he won his first major championship to now it has been 15 years.

"That's pretty difficult to do, so for him to still be at the top of the game for this long is quite impressive."

- 'High level' -

Australian Adam Scott, the 2013 Masters winner making his 100th career major start, finds both stars impressive in different ways while saying, "These guys are both playing at a high level."

"I played 18 holes at Augusta with Scottie before the Masters and even in the practice round, his mental approach to not just the game, but a round of golf -- it's like he picks the course apart," Scott said. "He's so good, so controlled with his shots.❑

"I was watching him even practicing and chipping, where he chipped from, it's very strategic. It seemed like he had all his bases covered. It's his approach, it's so smart, really."

McIlroy's willingness to open himself to the world earned Scott's appreciation. ❑

Jeeno defends title at LPGA Mizuho Americas Open

New York, United States

World number two Jeeno Thitikul fired a three-under par 69 to hold off China's Yin Ruoning and win her second consecutive LPGA Mizuho Americas Open title by four strokes on Sunday.

The 23-year-old from Thailand made four birdies and a bogey to finish 72 holes on 13-under 275 at Mountain Ridge Country Club in West Caldwell, New Jersey.

"It means the world. It means a lot to me," Jeeno said. "I called my coach earlier in a practice round and everything went out of my head, which really helped."

Long-time Jeeno coach Kris Assawapimonporn's advice was to not push so hard and let go of her worries.

"Give the credit to him," she said. "Sometimes you don't try to fix things to be perfect. It helped me a lot to stay in my bubble, focus on what I can do.

"What I have to think about is my rhythm, what I can control."

Jeeno will try to capture her first major title at the US Women's Open next month at Riviera.

"It's always my dream, not goal but dream, to win a major," Jeeno said. "I don't want to put anything on my shoulders right now. I'll just play golf.

"Whether I win a major or not, I think I've done enough."

Jeeno captured her ninth career LPGA title and second of the year after taking the LPGA Thailand title in February.

That made her the fourth multi-time LPGA winner this season after top-ranked American Nelly Korda, South Korean Kim Hyo-joo and Australian Hannah Green.

Jeeno's friend Yin, 23, fired a 69 to finish second on 279, one stroke ahead of Mexico's Gaby Lopez and Americans Alison Lee and Jenny Bae, who matched her low round of the year with a 66.

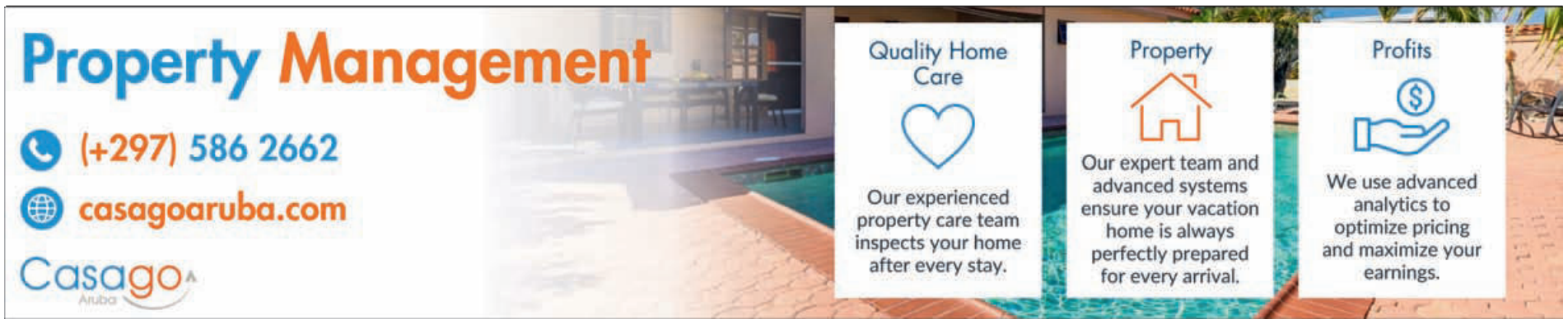
Yin, also a runner-up at the Chevron Championship in her prior start, reached all 18 greens in regulation but missed a chance for her sixth LPGA crown and first since the 2024 Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur.

"You need to leave yourself an uphill pull on these greens and I didn't do that on the back nine," Yin said. "My game is quite on spot. I just need to make less three putts."

Jeeno seized command with birdies on the second and third holes while France's Celine Boutier, second by two when the day began, made bogeys on three of the first six holes to fall back.

Yin made a charge with a birdie at the second and four birdies in a row ending at the par-five eighth, but stumbled with a bogey at 11.❑

Jeeno Thitikul of Thailand poses with the trophy after her winning putt on the 18th green during the final round of the Mizuho Americas Open 2026 at Mountain Ridge Country Club on May 10, 2026 in West Caldwell, New Jersey.



Sinner in derby with qualifier Pellegrino after strolling into Italian Open last 16

Rome, Italy

Jannik Sinner set up a David v Goliath clash with countryman Andrea Pellegrino in the last 16 of the Italian Open after demolishing Alexei Popyrin in straight sets 6-2, 6-0 on centre court on Monday.

The world number one easily won his 25th straight match, taking just over an hour to see off Australia's Popyrin and give qualifier Pellegrino his moment on the big stage on Tuesday afternoon.

Pellegrino, 29, who beat 20th seed Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (10/8), 6-1, is ranked 155 in the world and before this week had never played in the main draw of a Masters 1000 tournament.

"It's fun to play a derby in Italy, he's having an incredible tournament with a lot of victories against some really good opponents," Sinner told reporters.

"We've played each other a long time ago (in 2019 in an ITF tournament), but he was a different player, and I was a different player."

Sinner meanwhile is trying to extend his own record-breaking run of overall victories in the ATP's top-ranked events after having won his last five.

The 24-year-old joins Novak Djokovic as the only player to win a year's first 25 Master 1000 matches, with the Serbian tennis icon's record run stretching to 31 matches in 2011.

Popyrin was suffocated by Sinner and made 23 unforced errors on his way to a comprehensive defeat.

Italy's Jannik Sinner hits a return to Australia's Alexei Popyrin during the ATP Rome Open tennis tournament at Foro Italico in Rome on May 11, 2026.

The world number 60 only got 48 percent of first serves into play and that allowed Sinner to break five times and close out a match which was barely a contest.

Should Sinner prevail at the Foro Italico he will be the first Italian to win there since Adriano Panatta 50 years ago, and would complete his collection of Master 1000 tournaments.

"Sinner is different to everyone else at the moment, he is a class above," said Pellegrino.

"I'll try to give my best out there and above all enjoy the atmosphere out on the court."

With great rival Carlos Alcaraz out injured and Novak Djokovic eliminated early, Sinner will be red-hot favourite as he builds towards completing the career Grand Slam at the French Open which starts next week.❑

Wembanyama escapes playoff suspension after ejection: NBA source

Los Angeles, United States

San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama, ejected Sunday for elbowing an opponent in the face, will not face any further punishment and can play in Tuesday's playoff game, an NBA source told AFP.

Victor Wembanyama #1 of the San Antonio Spurs looks on during the first quarter against the Minnesota Timberwolves in Game Four of the Second Round of the NBA Western Conference Playoffs at Target Center on May 10, 2026 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The 22-year-old French star was tossed from the game for elbowing Naz Reid during the Spurs' loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves, who went on to tie the series 2-2. As is customary with a flagrant two level foul, the NBA reviewed the play Monday and decided not to impose any penalty.

It was the first time in his career that Wembanyama has been ejected and when officials announced the flagrant foul level two penalty, he had to ask teammate Harrison Barnes what it meant.

The Timberwolves were up 36-34 with 8:39 left in the second quarter when Wembanyama grabbed an offensive rebound and found himself battling Minnesota's Jaden McDaniels and Reid.

McDaniels collided with Wembanyama, who spun to his right with his elbow raised, jabbing it backward and striking Reid hard on the jaw.

He was immediately whistled for a foul and officials determined after review that it rose to the level of a flagrant two, with unnecessary and excessive contact, which is automatic ejection.

When he realized he'd been tossed, Wembanyama made a point of high-fiving all of his teammates as he left the court.

Even without him, the second-seeded Spurs had an eight-point lead early in the fourth quarter before the Timberwolves rallied for a win that leveled the best-of-seven series at two games apiece.

Wembanyama, who had dazzled with 39 points in the Spurs' game three victory on Friday, had four points and four rebounds before his sudden exit.❑